

**Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Demonstrations in Major Russian Cities  
December 8, 2011**

A number of large-scale demonstrations are planned in Russian cities, including Moscow and St. Petersburg, in the wake of the Russian parliamentary elections. While these events are not expected to be violent, U.S. citizens should be aware of the possibility for counter-demonstrations and spontaneous protests, as well as a larger-than-usual police presence to monitor all activities.

This week, these gatherings and police presence have resulted in some temporary and intermittent closures of public areas, including squares and Metro stations. Police have also closed streets to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. All of this activity has resulted in significant disruption to normal traffic patterns. During some demonstrations, there have been arrests and some violence.

Please note the following guidance from the U.S. Department of State's [Country-Specific Information Sheet for the Russian Federation](#): "U.S. citizens should avoid all public demonstrations, whether properly authorized by local officials or not, and avoid any large crowds and public gatherings that lack enhanced security measures."

\*\*\*\*\*

Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Consulate General's website -- <http://stpetersburg.usconsulate.gov> -- and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website -- [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) -- where current Worldwide Cautions, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information can be found. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except for U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Consulate General in St. Petersburg is located at 15 Furshatskaya Street. You may contact our American Citizen Services Unit by e-mail at [StPetersburgACS@state.gov](mailto:StPetersburgACS@state.gov), by fax at 7-812-331-2646 or by telephone at 7-812-331-2600. If you have an emergency after normal business hours, please call our telephone number and you will be given instruction on how to contact the Consulate Duty Officer.